

Appln. No. 10/668,556
Amendment dated December 21, 2005
Response to Office Action mailed August 10, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 were pending in this application. Claims 1-15 have been allowed and claim 16 has been rejected. By this Amendment claim 16 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 15 (and cancelled claim 16) are independent.

The Examiner is thanked for the allowance of claims 1-15. Those claims have been maintained unchanged, and so are believed to remain allowable at least for the reasons already given.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 16 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,469,196 to Okazaki et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,551,734 to Causley et al.

In view of the cancellation of claim 16, this rejection is entirely moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submits that the sole outstanding rejection has been addressed and is now moot. Applicants further submit that all claims pending in this application are patentable over the prior art.

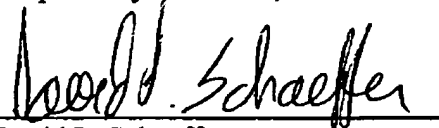
Other than the extension fee authorized in the accompanying Petition for Extension of Time, no fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this paper. Nevertheless, should the Commissioner deem any fee(s) to be now or hereafter due in

Appln. No. 10/668,556
Amendment dated December 21, 2005
Response to Office Action mailed August 10, 2005

connection with this application, authority is given to charge all such fees to Deposit Account
No. 19-4709.

In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be
required, please contact Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Schaeffer", is written over a horizontal line.

David L. Schaeffer
Registration No. 32,716
Attorney for Applicants
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP
180 Maiden Lane
New York, New York 10038
(212) 806-6677